

# The “CHAMPVA Online Act”

**Sponsors:** Scott Peters (CA-50) and Rep Finstad (MN-01)

**Endorsements:** American Legion, National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), and Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

## **Problem**

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a health insurance program that provides coverage to a spouse, widow(er), or child of a disabled or deceased veteran. Covered services range from ambulatory surgery, hospice, and transplant services to inpatient, pharmacy, and mental health care. Applicants must download an application from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website and mail or fax to the CHAMPVA office to register for the program.

VA does not provide an electronic submission option for CHAMPVA applications. This raises important questions about how qualifying individuals can access these benefits. Individuals who have mobility impairment issues, lack access to a fax machine, or live far from a post office confront application barriers. Similarly, applicants can face possible gaps in coverage due to delays resulting from mail services.

## **Solution**

This bill addresses these challenges by requiring VA to:

- Establish an online website to submit CHAMPVA applications (in addition to mail or fax).
- Promote the use of this website to eligible individuals interested in applying to the program.

This bill is important because an online application portal would mitigate barriers to coverage for vulnerable individuals and possible delays associated with conventional mail service.

To learn more about or cosponsor the “CHAMPVA Online Act,” please contact Adam Taylor with Rep. Peter’s office ([adam.taylor@mail.house.gov](mailto:adam.taylor@mail.house.gov)) or Dylan Rosnick ([Dylan.Rosnick@mail.house.gov](mailto:Dylan.Rosnick@mail.house.gov)) in Mr. Finstad’s office.